

Responsible Man

by
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Original script

2st draft

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EXT. SMALL AIRFIELD - NOON

There's a small plane high in the sky above the airfield shooting out skydivers. Bright parachutes blossom into a colorful movable pattern in the sky creating a very festive view. A nearby lake is sparkling in the sun to complete a peaceful picture.

A line of skydivers ready for the next take-off stands in full gear in front of another skydiver plane on the airstrip before their instructor. Nick (18) is one of the group. Another group which includes Kevin (50) moves in a jagged row to a pre-flight instruction zone bypassing this line. These ones look like newbies.

Occasionally the eyes of Nick and Kevin meet. Kevin stops abruptly.

NICK

What are you doing here?

KEVIN

It's my first solo jump today.

NICK

You?

KEVIN

Yep.

NICK

So, that's where you go duck hunting!

KEVIN

Same place you go to for your fine art classes.

NICK

But that's crazy, dad!

The other skydivers exchange glances.

INSTRUCTOR

(to Nick)

Is that your father, dude? You good?

NICK

(to the Instructor)

That's ok.

(to Kevin)

But... what is it all for?

KEVIN

You think you are the only one who gets to take risks? Why can't I?

NICK
Does mom know?

KEVIN
No, sir.

INSTRUCTOR
Ok, guys, nobody's gonna dye
today, not on my watch. Come'on,
let's move.

Kevin joins his group, Nick's eyes follow.

INT. SKYDIVE PLANE - LATER

Kevin is in line to the exit. Skydivers go out one after another and are drawn away by the air flow. Kevin's instructor controls their exit timing. Now it's Kevin's turn. Sheer terror is on his face.

KEVIN'S INSTRUCTOR
Three... Two... One... Now!

Kevin overcomes his fear and steps on the ramp. The instructor puts his hand on Kevin's shoulder.

KEVIN'S INSTRUCTOR (CONT'D)
(with a shout and a
slight push)
Go!

Kevin jumps out. His instructor watches him fly. Kevin flails from side to side, and then his parachute comes off and the canopy bursts open with a clap. The instructor jumps out himself with a battle cry and sweeps past Kevin in his free-fall.

KEVIN'S INSTRUCTOR (CONT'D)
Woohoo!

EXT. SKY - MOMENTS LATER

Kevin is white with mental stress. The instructor goes fast past him towards the ground. Kevin looks at the meadow of the dropzone and tries to control his flight. He's sweating. Far below the instructor's canopy bursts open at last to Kevin's slight relief.

Far aside we can see a suburban district with an isolated two-storied house. It's Kevin's. He doesn't even notice. He's too concerned with landing.

EXT. CAR PARK NEAR SMALL AIRFIELD - HOURS LATER

Kevin is at the open rear door of his SUV. He's still shaky. He fetches a bottle of water and takes a gulp. Nick comes close, his hands on the handle bar of his bike. There's a backpack attached to the bike.

NICK

How did you like it, pa?

Kevin makes a face like he's going to say "so-so", then suddenly changes his mind and tells the truth.

KEVIN

I didn't. Actually I'm still shaking of what I've done, still horrified.

NICK

Ok, you tried it, now you'd better quit.

KEVIN

What about you?

NICK

They've admitted me to the ram-air course.

KEVIN

Ram-air?

NICK

Real parafoil type canopy - it's what sportsmen use, just like your instructor.

Kevin is even more scared, but tries not to show it.

KEVIN

(doomed)

So, my next jump is tomorrow.

NICK

Dad! What do you want to prove?

KEVIN

I'll keep on jumping till you quit, if there's no other way to make you avoid unnecessary risks.

NICK

Unnecessary? Whenever you step out of your bedroom - you're already at risk!

(MORE)

NICK (CONT'D)

Suicide bombers, drug addicts
killing you just for your cell
phone, drunkard drivers, street
fighters, schoolboys firing their
fathers' M-16s, tornados, plane
crashes... anything! Listen,
statistically speaking, skydiving
is far more safe than driving a
car!

KEVIN

Why are you doing it?

NICK

It makes me feel like a man. I've
been waiting for years to turn
18. I knew you'd never allow
me...

KEVIN

I hoped a day would come when I
see you become a responsible man,
Nick. Respectful of your own life
and health too.

NICK

I do, father. I'm very
responsible and very cautious.

KEVIN

What would happen to your little
sisters if something goes wrong?
And your mom? Did you think of
her?

NICK

Oh, no, come on!

Nick makes a move to pass by Kevin's car.

KEVIN

By the way... where'd you get the
money? The gear is expensive.

NICK

(smiles)

My summer savings were large
enough. It's all rented. I was
rational, responsible and
consistent. Like a man.

(seriously)

And you, pa, act like a child.

Kevin nods sadly and closes the rear door of his SUV.

KEVIN

Can I give you a ride?

NICK

No, sir, thank you very much.

Kevin watches his son mounting the bike and go off.

EXT. IN FRONT OF KEVIN'S HOUSE - DAY

A car with insignia of US Marshalls comes to a stop by the mailbox in front of the house. That's Kevin's house we saw during his jump. Two US Marshalls get out of the car. They're wearing their kevlar and helmets, one's carrying an AR-15 rifle, another one - a shotgun.

Worried KATE (mid 40s) comes out of the house.

1ST MARSHALL

Hello, ma'm. Deputy Marshall Ramirez. Sorry for the interruption.

KATE

Good afternoon, officer. What's the problem?

1ST MARSHALL

We've come to warn you. Two dangerous runaways broke free from a prison van yesterday. Please, take the picture and my card. If you see anyone or anything suspicious just give us a call.

KATE

(taking the papers)
Where did they escape?

2ND MARSHALL

Other side of the lake, ma'am. If you see them, just give a us call... They're dangerous.

1ST MARSHALL

But if you keep a weapon at home, it's good time to get it oiled and reloaded.

Kate nods her consent.

2ND MARSHALL

Have a nice day.

1ST MARSHALL

Ma'am.

The marshalls make their way to their car with a farewell bow. Kate enters the house.

INT. KEVIN'S HOUSE. UPSTAIRS. NICK'S ROOM - LATER

Dora (8) and Kitty (12), two busy sisters of Nick, are taking a plywood box from under Nick's bed. In a moment it's opened. They unwrap a grey cloth cover to find an airsoft MP5 and a Glock. The girls are satisfied. They bring their weaponry to the table.

KITTY

It's easy, see?

Kitty's showing Dora how to use the Glock and reload it, then she gets the MP5 clip and fills it with BB rounds. It's absolutely clear that she copies Nick's instructions once given to her.

INT. KEVIN'S HOUSE. DOWNSTAIRS. KITCHEN - NEXT MORNING

All five of Kevin's family are having breakfast.

NICK

Are you going to your duck hunting today, dad? Ma, I love those ducks.

KEVIN

No.

NICK

Because of the criminals?

KEVIN

Sure. I'm staying home. The rifle too. I'm a responsible man, see?

NICK

(with a shrug)
Ookey. Well, thanks, mom. I'm running late for my art classes.

Nick gets up and takes his backpack.

NICK (CONT'D)

Have a nice day, everybody!

DORA

(motherlike)
Watch those cars! Take care!

Nick smiles and blows Dora a kiss.

INT. SKYDIVE PLANE - NOON

The plane is getting higher in wide circles. The instructor opens the dive door and stands on the ramp looking outside.

INSTRUCTOR

What the heck?

In a distance there are several police cars not far from Kevin's house and a lot of armed policemen and marshalls around. The cars flashlights are on.

Nick takes a camera from one of the skydivers without his permission and zooms it at the scene. There are men in the garden behind his house. They are not visible clearly because of the bush and the trees. Nick's lips tighten. The owner of the camera takes it back and fastens it to his dive helmet.

INSTRUCTOR (CONT'D)

Everybody, get ready. And remember at all times to avoid the lake, there are strong ascending flows which are unpredictable in the weather like this.

The skydivers begin leaving the plane at the instructor's commands.

EXT. DROPZONE - MOMENTS LATER

A skydiver separates from a descending group of parachutes and heads towards the lake. He's getting higher while others descend. The people on the ground turn their heads in his direction. Exclamations and concerned voices. An ambulance starts the engine and roars to the lake...

... but the runaway skydiver turns to the suburb. He's on his way to Kevin's house moving with a projectile velocity.

SUPERVISOR

(amplified)

That was his last take-off in my dropzone, folks, I swear. What a punk!

EXT. GARDEN BEHIND KEVIN'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Kevin with his mouth bleeding stands with his hands half raised in front of two criminals dressed in clothes that obviously don't belong to them. There was struggle and now it's over. One of the criminals points Kevin's rifle at his belly.

1ST CRIMINAL

Get in the shed! Do what you're
told and nobody gets hurt today.

Kevin steps back to the shed, we can see that his eyes are fixed on Kate's. She's tied with adhesive tape and is sitting with her back against the back wall of the house. Her gaze is a silent howl of despair.

1ST CRIMINAL (CONT'D)

The lady is our guarantee.

2ND CRIMINAL

We don't want to shed no innocent
blood here, Mr. Hero. Got it?

Kevin is now in the shed. One of the criminals shuts the door with a kick. He locks the padlock and puts a lawnmower in front of the door. Then he turns to his cellmate.

2ND CRIMINAL (CONT'D)

Get the bitch and let's move off
back to the boat.

INT. KEVIN'S HOUSE. UPSTAIRS. NICK'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Dora is carefully opening the window, carrying the Glock in her other hand, while Kitty is aiming her airsoft MP5 at the criminals.

KITTY

(movie style)

Raise your hands, you bloody
bastards!

(with her voice
strained)

Raise your hands or I shoot!

The criminals exchange glances. They can't find the source of trouble - the girls can hardly be seen from below. Nevertheless one of the criminals raises the rifle and...

... slap! Something hits him on the forehead.

KITTY (CONT'D)

Didn't I tell you?

(almost crying)

Raise! Your! Hands!

Kitty starts firing irregularly. The criminals crouch towards Kate, who is almost senseless, while BBs are knocking down leaves from the trees around them. And suddenly...

... it darkens in an instant!

Like a miracle giant bird the canopy covers the sky. With a cry of courage the desperado skydiver lands on the shoulders of one of the criminals with a powerful smack. Another one tries to turn back and is instantly covered blind. A moment and all the garden is covered with square yards of thin but solid fabric. Somehow the cops took the skydiver's descent as a signal - they come in numbers over the fence and from around the corners armed to the teeth and fearful.

FADE TO BLACK.

Nick screams.

NICK (O.S.)
Ah, my legs! Ah, mom, it hurts!

FADE TO:

EXT. IN FRONT OF KEVIN'S HOUSE - LATER

Two paramedics are fixing Nick's legs on the stretcher. Kevin and Kate are at his sides. Kitty with her weapon is too frightened to come close, while Dora runs to Nick, dropping her Glock to the ground and throws hugs to his head and shoulders. That causes another burst of screams.

KATE
(in a bitter low voice)
Listen to me, my boy. Do not, I repeat, do not ever try this again.

NICK
(smiling painfully)
I won't, ma. I promise.

Kevin smiles too, his face still bears traces of poorly wiped blood.

KEVIN
He won't, dear. I believe him.
He's a responsible man now.

The stretcher goes up and into the ambulance. Nick blows his family a number of kisses.

NICK
I can go to the Guinness book for the best first accuracy jump on the moving spot, right? Wasn't it great?

THE END

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